

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: APRIL 4, 2007

DEPARTMENT: OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR: DAVID RIGGLEMAN

SUBJECT:
RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL TARTAN DAY

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at meeting – Copy of Proclamation declaring National Tartan Day

Minutes:

No motion required. A presentation was made.

COUNCILMEN ROSS and BROWN, wearing kilts, joined to recognize National Tartan Day, a day chosen to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath on April 6, 1320. The United States Declaration of Independence was based on this document. National Tartan Day celebrates the role Americans of Scottish descent have played in the development of the United States and has been observed nationally since 1997. Over 11 million Americans claim Scottish and Scottish/Irish descent, making them the eighth largest ethnic group in the United States. In honor of this day and the invaluable contributions, accomplishments and cultural traditions of the members of the Celtic community in Las Vegas, COUNCILMAN ROSS recognized representatives of various groups who celebrate National Tartan Day. He had them stand in recognition.

COUNCILMAN ROSS then called forward JOHN BUTCHER, Director of the St. Andrews Society, ROSEMARY THOM, Past President of the St. Andrews Society, and JEFF GORDON, Director of the Las Vegas Celtic Society, and presented them with a Proclamation declaring April 6, 2007, as National Tartan Day. MR. BUTCHER thanked the Council for the recognition and gave an historic account of how National Tartan Day came to be. He noted that after 1746 the Tartans were removed and the British would torture or kill anyone that was caught doing or wearing anything associated with manifestation of Scottish nationality. People may wonder what relevance the Scottish have to Las Vegas, but they do not know that the Las Vegas Valley was settled after 1855 by people of Scottish background.

MR. BUTCHER pronounced that anyone with a love of Scotland or its heritage can wear the Nevada State Tartan. He invited everyone to join him at Floyd Lamb State Park for a wonderful celebration of the Highland Games on April 21-22.

MS. THOM presented each of the Councilmembers with a piece of the Tartan and the story of it. COUNCILMAN ROSS pointed out that this is the first time the Council has recognized Tartan Day. The members of the Desert Skye Pipes and Drums finished off by playing the piece Scotland the Brave.